(b) what steps Government are taking to correct this injustice to farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture requires calculation of product specific and non-product specific Aggregate Measurements of Support (AMS) for the base period (1986—88) only and not for subsequent years. The requisite information in respect of the base period is contained in the schedule of commitments to the GATT, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library. This Ministry has not made any calculation of AMS beyond the base period.

Marketing of Indian Books in Foreign Countries

4330. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become a dumping ground for foreign scientific, technical and medical books ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Books are cheaper yet foreign booksellers are reluctant to stock them ;

(c) whether Government have identified the reasons of the same and if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) what incentive Government propose to give to boost their sales in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Foreign scientific, technical and medical books are allowed to be imported into India.

(b) and (c) As per available information, foreign booksellers for historical reasons do not favour Indian publications and continue to promote western publications. Therefore, despite Indian books being cheaper, booksellers in developed countries are reluctant to stock and sell Indian books.

(d) Under the Export-Import Policy, 1992—97, export of books and publications are allowed freely, Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) is granted to the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, annually which also helps to boost the export of books and publications. No special dispensation is granted to any industry in this regard.

Agricultural and Drug Price increase due to GATT ACCORD

4331. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to an OECD report agricultural prices are likely to rise by four to seven per cent and drug prices by 14 to 16 per cent due to the implementation of the GATT accord ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to contain this projected rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The OECD study entitled 'Assessing the effects of the Uruguay Round' does not deal with the likely increase in prices of agricultural products and drugs due to the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement.

(b) The Uruguay Round Agreement does not impose any restrictions on the use of price control measures which may be resorted to incase of an increase in prices.

Resentment of ESCAP Members on Social issue condition at I.T.A.

4332. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the resent 50th Ministerial session of ESCAP, a number of member countries including South Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Hongkong displayed solidarity with India in assailing the attempts being made by some developed countries to put out social issues of environment and labour standards at the International Trade Agenda ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) steps proposed to be taken by Government to deal with the situation ; and

(d) items that were discussed at this session and conclusions reached thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Issues pertaining to attempts to inscribe environmental and social issues on the trade agenda were discussed at the 50th Annual Session of the ESCAP held at New Delhi. The resolution viz ; "Delhi Declaration of Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century" adopted by the ESCAP Member Countries emphasised the need to combat protectionism and to avoid its assumption into new forms that could pose a threat to the expansion of world trade and thereby jeopardize the gains of the Uruguay Round.

(d) The 50th Annual Session of ESCAP deliberated broadly on three thematic areas i.e., Regional Economic Cooperation, Environment and Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development. The Commission also deliberated on the theme topic "Infrastructure Development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation". The Commission considered 9 Resolutions which were adopted during the Session, the most important being the "Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century". A list of other Resolutions adopted in the Session is enclosed in Statement-I (*See* below). A draft report on the proceedings of the session was also adopted during the session which contains important areas indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Resolutions adopted in the 50th Annual Session of ESCAP (5—13 *April*, 1994), *New Delhi*

(1) Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century.

(2) Draft Resolution on Status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

(3) Participatory human settlements development.

(4) Regional Preparations for the World Conference on Women, 1995 : Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994.

(5) Action Plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific.

(6) Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

(7) Update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

(8) Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia.

(9) Implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in investment-related technology transfer.

Statement II

Details regarding proceedings of the Session and important items discussed therein

Policy debate :

— Policy statement by the Executive Secretary.

— Recent economic and social developments in the ESCAP region and their impact.

— Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation.

Regional economic cooperation :

— Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its third session.

— Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment.

- Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

- Report on the Commission's activities for disadvantaged economies in transition.

- Implementation of paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 49/3 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific.

Environment and sustainable development :

— Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, first session, and its followup.

— Implementation of Agenda 21 in Asia and the Pacific.

— Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development :

— Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow up.

— Report on the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific and its follow-up.

— Regional preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

- Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women : Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

— Progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993 — 2002.

— Review and refinement of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

— Follow-up of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and implementation strategies : regional preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development.

Transport and communications :

— Report of the Committee on Transport and Communications, first session.

Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries :

— Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, second session

— Implementation of Commission resolution 49/8 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries.

ESCAP regional institutions and selected regional projects :

— Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

— Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

— Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Eumid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific.

- Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery.

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields : implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

Inter-organizational co-operation :

- Cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations in the promotion of economic and social development in the region.

- Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities : implementation of Commission resolution 49/10.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies :

— Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas.

— Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin.

— Typhoon Committee.

— Asian and Pacific Development Centre.

Programme Planning :

— Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as adopted by the General Assembly, and proposed programme changes.

— Second revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

— Issues relevant to and resources for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP.

Announcement of intended contributions :

— Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions Activities of the Advisory Committee or Permanent Representatives and other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Impact of Budget Incentives on Tobacco Farmers

4333. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the likely impact of the recent incentives given in the Budget for tobacco farmers ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the excise concessions announced in the Budget will increase tobacco production ; and

(c) steps being taken to encourage tobacco farmers to utilise the incentives given in the Budget ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The specific rates of duties on cigarettes have remained unchanged for two years despite an increase in price, and hence the duties have increased by about 12%. However, in the non-filter segment, the excise duty for upto 60 mm category has been reduced from Rs. 120 per thousand to Rs. 60 per thousand for increased utilisation of tobacco in this industry, which would in turn help the tobacco growers. The continuation of export incentives for cigarettes and tobacco would also benefit the tobacco farmers.

Organisations for Monitoring Tobacco Cultivation

4334. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Organisations under Commerce Ministry which are responsible for supervising, monitoring and encouraging tobacco cultivation ; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to make tobacco a leading farm export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Tobacco Board is the only Organisation under the Ministry of Commerce concerned with FCV tobacco cultivation.

(b) The following steps are being taken to increase exports of Indian Tobacco :—

— sending trade delegations to various select markets.

— participation in International Exhibitions.

— Persuading Govt.'s of importing countries through joint committee meetings to import Indian Tobacco.

— Permitting export of tobacco to Russia through debt payment channel.

— Improving the quality and productivity levels of Indian Tobacco so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.